



The Next Steppe: Sage-grouse and Rangeland Wildfire in the Great Basin

November 5-7, 2014; Boise Centre, 850 W. Front Street, Boise, Idaho

Wednesday, November 5 – Summit Room

7:15	Registration/Check-in Begins (in hallway adjacent to Summit Room)
8:00	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Call to Order: Jesse Juen, BLM New Mexico State Director and Conference Master of Ceremonies▪ Welcome: Tim Murphy, BLM Idaho State Director▪ Keynote: Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior▪ Opening Remarks: Tim Murphy, Moderator<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals, Department of the Interior▸ Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service▸ Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management▪ Conference Overview: Jesse Juen and Susan Hayman, Conference Facilitator
9:30	Break
9:45	Overview of Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin Sagebrush Steppe <p>Moderator: Anne Kinsinger, Associate Director for Ecosystems, US Geological Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Wildfire in the Great Basin and Challenges for the Future</i>: Dr. Rick Miller, Professor Emeritus of Range Ecology and Management, Oregon State University▪ <i>Influence of Fire on Sagebrush-Obligate Wildlife in the Great Basin</i>: Dr. Jeff Beck, Associate Professor, Wildlife Habitat Restoration Ecology, University of Wyoming▪ <i>Climate, Wildfire, and Great Basin Ecosystems</i>: Dr. Matt Germino, Research Ecologist, US Geological Survey▪ Participant Q&A
11:30	Lunch (on your own)
12:30	Panel: Management Moving Forward—States' Perspectives on Managing Fire and Sagebrush-Steppe Challenges <p>Moderator: Will Whelan, The Nature Conservancy, Director of State Government Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Virgil Moore, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game▪ Leo Drozdoff, Director, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources▪ Kathleen Clarke, Director, Utah Public Lands Coordination Office▪ Brett Brownscombe, Natural Resource Advisor to Oregon Governor Kitzhaber▪ Panel Discussion and Participant Q&A
1:45	Break



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2:00 Priorities and Strategies for Sage-grouse Habitat

Moderator: Carol Schuler, USGS-FRESC Director, Northwest Region

- *A State Director's Perspective*: Amy Lueders, BLM Nevada State Director
- *Fire: Improving our ability to reduce wildfire and invasive impacts through accelerated partner collaboration*: Jeremy Maestas, NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative Technical Lead
- *Using Resistance and Resilience Concepts to Reduce Impacts of Invasive Annual Grasses and Altered Fire Regimes on the Sagebrush Ecosystem and Greater Sage-Grouse*: Dr. Jeanne Chambers, US Forest Service Research Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station
- *Conducting Fire and Invasives Assessments to address Wildfire, Invasive Annual Grass, and Conifer Expansion in the Great Basin*: Doug Havlina, BLM Fire Ecologist and Fire and Invasive Species Assessment Team Lead
- Participant Q&A

3:30 Break

3:45 Panel: Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin—Challenges and Needs from a Field Perspective

Moderator: Jay Gibbs, Basin Leader, NRCS - Oregon

- Rosey Thomas, BLM Ely District Manager
- Jose Noriega, US Forest Service Ely District Ranger
- John Kasbohm, Project Leader, Sheldon-Hart National Wildlife Refuge
- Panel Discussion and Participant Q&A

4:30 Why All This Matters

Presenter: Dr. John Freemuth, Professor, Department of Public Policy and Administration, Boise State University

5:00 Day 1 Closing Remarks and Announcements

Jesse Juen and Susan Hayman

Thursday, November 6 – Summit Room

8:00 Introduction of Day 2 and Announcements

Jesse Juen and Susan Hayman

8:10 Status Updates: Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Management/Operations Group

Janice Schneider and Rex McKnight, Fire Management Officer, BLM Nevada

8:20 The Effects of Rangeland Fire on Sage-grouse: A Fish and Wildlife Service Perspective

- Presenter: Ted Koch, US Fish & Wildlife Service - Nevada State Supervisor
 - Participant Q&A
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8:50	Before the Fire: Rangeland Mitigation Treatments that Work Moderator: Jim Stovall, Pecos District Manager, BLM New Mexico <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Short-Term Effects of Sagebrush-Steppe Restoration Treatments on Herbaceous Vegetation: the SageSTEP Project:</i> Dr. Jim McIver, Associate Professor of Forestry and Rangelands, Oregon State University▪ <i>Effective Treatments:</i> Lance Okeson, BLM Boise Fuels District Specialist▪ <i>Decision Support for Sage-Steppe Protection: Designing a Regional Network of Strategic Fuel Breaks to Benefit the Greater Sage-Grouse:</i> Dr. Bob Unnasch, Director of Science for Idaho, The Nature Conservancy
10:00	Break
10:15	Before the Fire: Rangeland Mitigation Treatments that Work (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Linear Fuel Breaks:</i> Mike Feticc, BLM Winnemucca District Fire Management Officer▪ <i>A Rancher's View of Fire and Grazing Management:</i> Todd Black, Deseret Land and Livestock▪ <i>Managing Landscapes for Sage-grouse with an Emphasis on Fire and Greenstripping:</i> Dr. Terry Messmer, Professor of Wildland Resources, Utah State University▪ Participant Q&A
11:35	Break
11:45	Lunch Panel and Presentation (Falcon Room) Participants pick up boxed lunches and are seated Moderator: Jeremy Maestas, NRCS - Oregon <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Connecting scientists and managers: Lessons from the Great Basin Fire Science Exchange:</i> Génie MontBlanc, Program Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno▪ <i>Sharing the Story of the Sage-grouse:</i> Lisa Eller, The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Communications Director
12:25	Presentation: A Perspective on Fire Policy and Management <i>Policy and Analysis in the Larger Picture:</i> Rocky Barker, Environmental Reporter, Idaho Statesman
12:45	Panel Discussion, including Rocky Barker, and Participant Q&A
1:00	Break
1:15	Panel: During the Fire—Strategies and Tactics (Summit Room) Moderator: Julia Sullens, Southern Idaho Fire Program Liaison, Idaho Department of Lands <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Center Manager's Perspective:</i> Jill Leguineche, US Forest Service, Southwest Idaho Dispatch Center Manager▪ <i>Battalion Chief's View:</i> Lindsey Neiwert, BLM Battalion Chief, Boise District▪ <i>Local and Rural Fire Engagement:</i> Rich Harvey, Deputy State Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry and Type I Incident Commander▪ <i>Rangeland Fire Protective Associations:</i> Darcy Helmick, Saylor Creek RFPA▪ Panel Discussion and Participant Q&A



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2:30	Break
2:45	After the Fire: What Works, What Needs to Change Moderator: Mike Pellant, BLM, Great Basin Restoration Initiative Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Effectiveness of Sagebrush-Steppe Post-Fire Rehabilitation Projects</i>: Dr. David Pyke, USGS Supervisory Research Ecologist▪ <i>Application of Current Research in Post-fire Management</i>: Jeff Rose, BLM Associate District Manager, Burns, Oregon▪ <i>Precision Restoration Treatments</i>: Dr. Jay Kerby, Southeast Oregon Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy▪ Participant Q&A
4:05	Stand Up Break
4:15	On the Horizon: Potential New Tools to Improve Rangeland Health Moderator: John Cissel, Joint Fire Science Program Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Cheatgrass Die-Off as a Restoration Opportunity</i>: Dr. Susan Meyer, US Forest Service Research Ecologist▪ <i>Simulation Modelling and Emerging Technologies for Understanding and Prioritizing Management Actions</i>: Dr. Matt Reeves, US Forest Service, Rangeland Scientist)▪ <i>The Use of Seed Enhancement to Improve Sagebrush Establishment Across and Elevation Gradient</i>: Dr. April Hulet, Range and Forest Management Researcher, Agricultural Research Services▪ Participant Q&A
5:15	Summary of Day 2 and Announcements Jesse Juen and Susan Hayman
5:30-7:30	After-Hours Casual Conversation Session Snacks and Refreshments Available
Friday, November 7 – Summit Room	
8:00	Introduction of Day 3 and Announcements (Summit Room) Jesse Juen and Susan Hayman
8:10	Move to Breakout Rooms
8:20	Breakout Work Sessions (<i>two groups that rotate participants at 9:30</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Senior Policy Group (Peregrine Room): Moderators: Dr. John Freemuth, BSU and Laurie Kurth, U.S. Forest Service▪ Senior Fire Management/Operations Group (Kestrel/Merlin Room): Moderators: Bud Cribley, BLM Alaska State Director and Tami DeFries, Associate Manager, Alaska Fire Service
10:30	Break



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10:45 Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Management/Operations Group Summary (Summit Room)
Senior Policy Group and Senior Fire Management/Operations Group will summarize outcomes from the morning meetings.

11:15 Closing Remarks, Final Thoughts and Next Steps
Moderator: Jesse Juen

- Janice Schneider, DOI Assistant Secretary Lands and Minerals
- Daniel Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

12:00 Conference Adjourned
